

European Committee Meeting
 American Paint Horse Association
 2009 European Paint Horse Championship
 September 10, 2009

Attendance:

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Agenda :

1. Reports and discussions on 2009 European Paint Horse Championship and 2010 EPHC
2. International Youth Competition 2010 / APHA World Show Youth competition
3. European Show Management and Judges Clinic 2010
4. FEI Medication Rules will used for the 2010 European Paint Horse Championship
5. Discussion about the digital version of the APHA Connection and Paint Horse Journal
6. International page / button on the APHA website
7. Other

Summary of reports and discussions:

Approximately 10:00 AM Markus Rensing opens the meeting by welcoming the attendees and thanking Lex Smurthwaite and John Corbin for their support and that of the APHA.

John Corbin added that a primary focus of the APHA and their attendance is communication between the APHA office and its membership in Europe. "European membership and their clubs is a very important arm of the APHA."

Lex Smurthwaite thanks the group for attending and states that he appreciates being back in Germany.

Each of the attendees introduced themselves.

2009 EPHC report and discussion

Monika Hagen and Karl-Heinz Schmidt gave a brief report on the 2009 EPHC. The show had more starts and more horses than the 2008 show; growing international participation; acceptance and compliments received about the location / facilities in Kreuth and the show management. Hagen reported on improvements made in the running of the show including the new position of “supervisors” for the warm-up areas, stalls, and nightly practice times. Corbin stated that the judges had commented on the show operations and the quality of the horses. Rensing pointed out that the PHCG had taken the comments from the meeting in 2008 and had made the improvements where possible. Again compliments on the PHCG for their hard work, the improvements and making the International guests feel welcome.

Schmidt reported that 2 doping tests had been made, 1 more scheduled test would be done, and one test had been reserved for any suspicious case. At that point in time, no person had been chosen for a test only class.

Eijelkamp expressed her concern that the International visitors did not understand the new system in giving out the ribbons. Hagen assured the group that the announcer had been repeatedly instructed to announce that the ribbons were to be picked up in the office downstairs. Schmidt added that this had saved approximately 40 hours over a weeks’ time. Verhulst suggested that the ribbons be presented, as they had in the past, from the first to the last place. After a short discussion and an informal vote, it was decided to continue as it was. It was also suggested that the Judges be named and not just the show number be given during the presentation. Hagen would inform the announcer of this request.

Oelke again complimented show management on the efficient running of the show and therefore the relaxed atmosphere. Polack joined the meeting and shared the view of the others that the show had improved over the last 3 years, Lejour agreed. Lejour added that it was the only opportunity for French riders to compete on this level and earn more APHA points; therefore he suggested that the French Club and other clubs assist the PHCG in organizing and financing the European Championship Shows. He had requested that the French Club set aside a certain amount of money to “sponsor” a class in 2010 and challenged other clubs to do the same. It was pointed out that this suggestion / action from the French Club was one of the reasons that this committee had begun to meet in Aachen; to increase communication, to encourage support from the other clubs and for the PHCG to report on improvements that had been made and those that are planned for the following shows. The question was asked where and how information and suggestions could be shared. This discussion point was moved to a later point in the Agenda; APHA website.

2010 American Paint Horse EPHC

After discussion about important events and other APHA approved shows in Europe, tentative dates were agreed upon by each country’s representative attending the meeting and with Swiss and Italian representatives. The dates were tentatively set for the week of August 30 (Monday) till September 4 (Saturday), 2010. There was a suggestion made to start one day earlier. PHCG officials will confirm these dates as soon as possible. The 2011 date was discussed. Schmidt reminded the group that the EPHC would stay in Kreuth as agreed upon and would confirm 2011 dates as soon as possible.

2010 World Games in Fort Worth, Texas / Youth competition at the APHA World Show

Smurthwaite reported that the 2010 APHA World Show would be held from June 23 till July 3, 2010. The first five days would be set aside for Youth competitions. March 1, 2010 the premium book would be available online and May 1st was the entry deadline. The World Game rules would remain basically the same as they had been in 2008; following the APHA rule book. The classes would be as follows: Hunt Seat Equitation, Trail, Showmanship at Halter, Horsemanship. The Horsemanship and Hunt Seat classes will include both rail and pattern work. Smurthwaite reminded the committee members that if it was not possible to form a complete team that clubs could combine riders from different countries (that do not have their own team) to form a team. There had been a single rider entered at the World Games. In that case, the rider had been judged for the class and placed, but not included in the World Game team competition tabulation.

Corbin informed the group that with the new split of the summer and fall Show more emphasis could be made on the Youth Events. Last year had been the first year and it had been well received by Youth riders. Schmidt expressed his concern that the German Youth had been prepared to ride a Reining competition but not Hunt Seat Equitation. The difficulty was that they were selecting the final riders at that show.

2010 Show Management and Judges' Seminar / New Applicants and Approved Judges

The seminar had traditionally been held late April early May, after the major part of the breeding season and before most shows begins. The dates and location would be set and sent to members of this committee, Paint Horse Club offices or contact persons per e-mail for distribution. It would also be posted under APHA.com. Smurthwaite reported that the Appaloosa Club had requested a combined seminar and that the request would most likely be approved. Lalesse asked if there would be education for "supervisors" as well. He asked for clarification of the role and authority of supervisors especially in the event that a rider would need to be expelled from the fairgrounds. Corbin clarified that in the US those situations were handled through the management team and / or Ring Stewards according to the APHA rule book. The rule book outlines the procedures and process that the show management has in handling those cases. It would be best for the supervisors to act with the consent and notification of show management under APHA rules.

FEI Medication Rules and Regulations

Beginning in 2010 at the EPHC the FEI, Federation Equestre Internationale, rules pertaining to medication testing would be used.

(Addition to the notes of the IC Meeting: The list of prohibited substances published under Annex II, www.fei.org/rules/Vetrinary will supersede any lists or guidelines found in the APHA rule book as allowed by rule SC-085.B. found in the APHA 2009 rule book page 85.)

This new information would need to be printed in the Premium book and other official publications including an obvious place on the EPHC website. It would be best for exhibitors to be aware of this change long before the event itself. It was recommended that the new regulations be obviously printed on the entry form that each exhibitor signs.

There was a discussion on whether to include the FEI vaccination rules. Many of the rules and regulations vary between countries. It would be difficult to enforce some of the FEI regulations if the exhibitor had already crossed international borders. It was also pointed out that the APHA rule book does not cover that topic and therefore it would be better to clearly address that issue elsewhere, perhaps in the Premium book.

Smurthwaite confirmed that the American Paint Horse Association would withdraw an awarded European Champion title if a horse had been tested positive for prohibitive substances and disqualified by the show management.

Digital versions of the APHA Connection and the Paint Horse Journal

Smurthwaite requested feedback from the group as to whether the Connection and Paint Horse Journal would be accepted by the membership in a digitalized format instead of being physically printed and mailed. The group agreed that it would be ok for the Connection to be published digitally but that many people would still want a physical magazine format for the Paint Horse Journal. The group suggested that the Paint Horse Journal be published in both formats; there was definitely interest in a less expensive digitalized version, but not to discontinue the printing of the magazine. A suggestion was made to do a questionnaire on the new official social websites, facebook, twitter, and of course APHA.com to find out the amount of interest there would be in a digitalized version of the Paint Horse Journal. Some of the European Clubs might also ask their membership and would then share the results with Smurthwaite. They would need to know the cost of the digitalized version to give a more accurate estimate of the number of people interested. Smurthwaite asked how many of the group follow Twitter or facebook and informed them that he had been sending pictures and information about the 2009 EPHC show to the official APHA sites and had already received positive remarks.

Official APHA International Website / Part of APHA.com

Smurthwaite informed the group that within the next six months that the APHA would launch an International web page under APHA.com. The information that is currently found under APHA.com, i.e. European show dates, European approved judges and contact information, European Champion titles, perhaps leading sires, articles from the PHJ about international activities, forms and most likely an international “blog” for communication and planning purposes between countries. The “button” would also include direct links to international club websites. Smurthwaite asked for suggestions and ideas to be sent to his e-mail address. Mortensen commented that the information is presently available online; however it is difficult to find for people who are not familiar with the site.

Other

Mortensen expressed the difficulties that the Danish membership was having when transferring ownership. The Danish government stamps information about the Equidenpass on the original papers that is lost when the new papers are printed. Information printed on the original documents should have been copied onto the new papers. Smurthwaite will confirm this with the registration department.

There was a request for gelding stamps to be distributed to approved clubs. Smurthwaite stated that selected clubs requesting a stamp would be issued one with the appropriate forms for use.

Closing statements

John Corbin thanked the group for the input. That was the kind of information that they'd like to have. He assured the group that the APHA would like continue communication between the office and the European membership.

Karl-Heinz Schmidt invited everyone to the Paint People Party. He reported that there were 200 lottery tickets to sell for youth projects. He reminded the group to make reservations in the show office if they wanted to sit together at a table.

Meeting ended at 12:15 with a special thank you on Lex Smurthwaite and John Corbin for their support.